



Preserving America's Heritage

**Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Electronic Section 106 Documentation Submittal System (e106) Form
MS Word format**

Send to: *e106@achp.gov*

I. Basic information

1. Name of federal agency (If multiple agencies, state them all and indicate whether one is the lead agency): United States Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office

2. Name of undertaking/project (Include project/permit/application number if applicable):

Gorge Dam Removal Project

3. Location of undertaking (Indicate city(s), county(s), state(s), land ownership, and whether it would occur on or affect historic properties located on tribal lands):

City of Cuyahoga Falls and City of Akron, Summit County, Ohio (Attachment 1)

4. Name and title of federal agency official and contact person for this undertaking, including email address and phone number:

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) (Lead federal agency): Mary Beth Giancarlo, Project Manager, [[HYPERLINK](#) "mailto:Giancarlo.Marybeth@epa.gov" \h], 312-886-2253

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) (Lead federal agency): Chris Klinkhamer, Project Manager, [[HYPERLINK](#) "mailto:Giancarlo.Marybeth@epa.gov" \h], 312-886-0209

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

401 F Street NW, Suite 308 □ Washington, DC 20001-2637
Phone: 202-517-0200 □ Fax: 202-517-6381 □ achp@achp.gov □ www.achp.gov

ED_006436A_00025222-00001

United States Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District (Technical Assistance to GLNPO): Curtis Sedlacek, Archeologist , [[HYPERLINK "mailto:Curtis.h.sedlacek@usace.army.mil"](mailto:Curtis.h.sedlacek@usace.army.mil)], 313-226-3510

5. Purpose of notification. Indicate whether this documentation is to:

- notify the ACHP of a finding that an undertaking may adversely affect historic properties, and
- propose to develop a project Programmatic Agreement (project PA) for complex or multiple undertakings in accordance with 36 C.F.R. 800.14(b)(3).

II. Information on the Undertaking*

6. Describe the undertaking and nature of federal involvement (if multiple federal agencies are involved, specify involvement of each):

The undertaking involves the removal of the Gorge Dam, located in Gorge Metro Park in Cuyahoga Falls, Summit County, Ohio by the Gorge Stakeholders (Ohio EPA, Summit Metro Parks, FirstEnergy and the County of Summit, Summit County Council, the State of Ohio, the City of Akron and the City of Cuyahoga Falls), with the objective of reestablishing natural conditions and habitat along the middle and lower segments of the Cuyahoga River and remove Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) in the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern (AOC). This goal will be achieved through the removal and remediation of contaminated sediments within the dam pool and the removal of the dam structure.

Within the Cuyahoga River Project Area, there are approximately 850,000 cubic yards of non-toxic but moderately contaminated sediments behind the dam which must be removed. The contamination level depicts a condition that requires dredging and open land filling. Sediment will be dredged from where it has accumulated in the dam pool and pumped through a pipe to a sediment placement area where it will be stabilized with portland cement and capped with clean soil. The proposed sediment placement area is a 24-acre area adjacent and east of the Cuyahoga River (outside the 100 year floodplain) in the Chuckery Area of Cascade Valley Metro Park. It is expected that the sediment will raise the placement area elevation by about 18 meters (60 feet). The placement of the sediment will not impact water quality or human health and the final use of the placement area will be for active and passive recreation.

The sediment remediation will be cost-shared by GLNPO and one or more non-federal entities. GLNPO's portion of the funding will be provided for under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The dam removal will be funded by the GLRI via a grant to the City of Akron.

7. Describe the Area of Potential Effects:

The APE includes the area immediately surrounding the dam, which is located on the Cuyahoga River roughly in the center of Gorge Metro Park. The dam pool is also within the APE, as removal of the 57-foot dam will cause the water level to recede considerably. Heading west from the dam is a linear tract proposed as the route for sediment transport. The proposed route is approximately 2.25 km along Highbridge Trail, which connects Gorge and Cascade Valley Metro Parks, joining with Peck Road. Sediment will be dredged from where it has accumulated in the dam pool and pumped via a pipe to the sediment placement area. The proposed sediment placement area is a 24-acre area adjacent and east of the Cuyahoga River (outside the 100 year floodplain) in the Chuckery Area of Cascade Valley Metro Park (Attachment 1).

8. Describe steps taken to identify historic properties:

The below cultural resource surveys were reviewed to identify the cultural resources within in the APE.

Gorge Dam Removal Architecture/History Survey (Zimmerman 2019)

- *Report on the Historic Research and Archaeological Investigation of Gorge Metro Park, Cities of Cuyahoga Falls and Akron, Summit County, Ohio* (Whitman et al 2010) and its updated addendum (Gintert and Shaeffer 2019)
- *Archaeological Assessment of the Sediment Removal and Sediment Placement Project Areas in Cascade Valley Metro Park for the Gorge Dam Removal Project* (Shaeffer et al 2019).

Additionally, the Ohio Historic Inventory was also reviewed.

9. Describe the historic property (or properties) and any National Historic Landmarks within the APE (or attach documentation or provide specific link to this information):

Four structures within the APE have been determined eligible for the NHRP, the Gorge Shelter (SUM0381008), two sets of Works Progress Administration (WPA) stairs (SUM0381312), a rock shelter known as Old Maid's Kitchen (SUM0381108), and a natural feature known as Hunter's Pass/Labyrinth (SUM0381208).

Additionally one archeological site within the APE is already listed on the NRHP, the Chuckery Race (NR# 2001047) and another, the CCC Latrines (33SU702) have been determined eligible for the NRHP.

10. Describe the undertaking's effects on historic properties:

Of the six historic properties within the APE, based on current project design, there could be adverse effects to the Chuckery Race and the WPA Stairs. Placement and maintenance of and any unexpected failures related to the sediment removal hose/pipe could potentially have an adverse effect on the Chuckery Race if it is placed along this feature. Currently the preferred route is located along the Highbridge Trail; extant portions of the Chuckery Race are still visible in places along this trail.

Additionally, sites, features or artifacts may be revealed during sediment removal and/or the lowering of the dam pool prior to the dam removal.

11. Explain how this undertaking would adversely affect historic properties (include information on any conditions or future actions known to date to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects):

See Section 10 description of potential adverse effects.

Due to the phased nature of the project, the lack of finalized plans at this stage and the possibility of the archeological sites being discovered during sediment removal and/or dam pool drawdown, GLNPO intend to pursue a project specific programmatic agreement between GLNPO, SHPO, and the Gorge Stakeholders.

The PA would outline the potential adverse effects to known historic properties, and steps to avoid, minimize and mitigate any potential adverse effects. The PA would contain procedures related to any surveys of the dam pool once drained. At this time SMP has developed an alternative survey procedure which will use a drone to conduct flyovers during the dam pool drawdown as the conditions will not allow for traditional survey techniques.

Additionally the PA would contain the procedures related to unanticipated discoveries during project construction.

12. Provide copies or summaries of the views provided to date by any consulting parties, Indian tribes or Native Hawai'ian organizations, or the public, including any correspondence from the SHPO and/or THPO.

GLNPO will be contacting the same federally recognized tribes that were contacted by SMP as the lead federal agency to offer an opportunity to consult on the undertaking and the PA under development.

** see Instructions for Completing the ACHP e106 Form*

III. Optional Information

13. Please indicate the status of any consultation that has occurred to date. Are there any consulting parties involved other than the SHPO/THPO? Are there any outstanding or unresolved concerns or issues that the ACHP should know about in deciding whether to participate in consultation?

The SMP has contacted additional consulting parties including the National Park Service and other local groups who may have an interest in the project area (Attachment 2).

The SMP has contacted the Ohio SHPO regarding this project and the SHPO has agreed that project specific PA is likely the appropriate way forward for this project (Attachment 3).

The SMP has contacted several federally recognized tribes with a cultural or historical interest in the

project area. GLNPO will also be reaching out to the same tribes to offer consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA as the lead federal agency (Attachments 4 and 5).

The Seneca Nation has requested and been granted consulting party status for the project. The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma have not requested consulting party status but they have requested to be notified should any prehistoric archeological sites be discovered during project construction (Attachment 4).

14. Does your agency have a website or website link where the interested public can find out about this project and/or provide comments? Please provide relevant links:

[HYPERLINK

"https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.greatlakesmud.org%2Fgorge-dam---cuyahoga-river-aoc.html&data=04%7C01%7CKlinkhamer.Christopher%40epa.gov%7Ceec05a516dbf4c30772c08d8d507e2ab%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637493577159217336%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=aFUVhDLWcDPv0yP2KCh2wke4FwxZvcxFsb1YQWOAjbk%3D&reserved=0" \h]

15. Is this undertaking considered a “major” or “covered” project listed on the Federal Infrastructure Projects Permitting Dashboard or other federal interagency project tracking system? If so, please provide the link or reference number:

No.

The following are attached to this form (check all that apply):

- ☒ Section 106 consultation correspondence
- ☒ Maps, photographs, drawings, and/or plans
- ☐ Additional historic property information
- ☐ Other: